

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY EDITION

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

SINCE 1878

INLAND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S NEWSPAPER

WWW.PE.COM

Saturday, January 13, 2007

IT'S GONNA BE COLD IN THE INLAND EMPIRE

TONIGHT'S LOW	PALM SPRINGS	RIVERSIDE	BIG BEAR CITY	MURRIETA	REDLANDS	CORONA	IDYLLWILD
	32	30	6	22	30	26	15

Snow falls, mercury to follow

Shuddering region braces for record lows overnight

BY DOUGLAS QUAN,
KIMBERLY PIERCEALL
AND PAUL LaROCCO
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Whip out the chains. Bring in the plants and pets. Insulate the pipes.

Normally sun-smug Southern Californians are being advised to take some unfamiliar steps this weekend as the region braces for more frigid temperatures.

Even though the storm that dumped snow across much of the Inland region Friday morning has passed, ensuring things will at least stay dry, temperatures are expected to plunge to record lows across many cities.

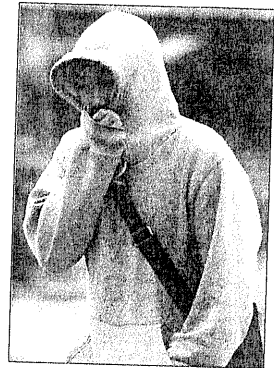
In Riverside and San Bernardino, temperatures overnight tonight are expected to fall below freezing. In the mountains, overnight lows are expected to drop to near or below zero.

"Not a good day to lay by the pool," quipped National Weather Service forecaster Steve Vanderburg.

Lake Arrowhead on Friday broke a 33-year old record, by 1 degree, when its high managed only 30 degrees.

Warmer weather is forecast for Monday and into next week, but it will bring gusty Santa Ana winds and an increased fire

SEE COLD SNAP/A10



CATLIN M. KELLY/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE
UCR student Ying Chuko, from Taiwan, says "I prefer the cold, but not this cold."

PE.com ON THE WEB
■ A video shows how snow is good for business and apples in Oak Glen. **PE.com**.

IN MAIN NEWS

■ Freezing weather grips much of nation's midsection. **A5**

IN LOCAL NEWS

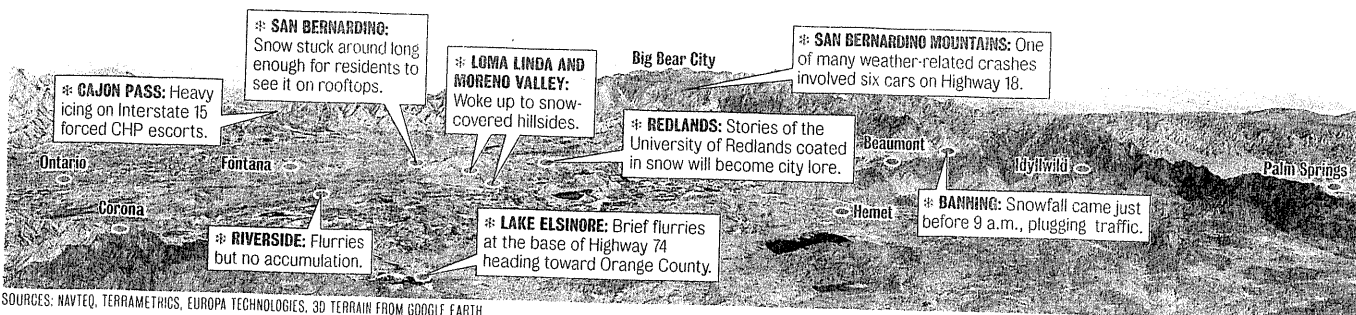
■ Homeless wary of a Riverside County offer to care for their pets overnight. **B section**

■ Higher temperatures are expected to follow a cold weekend. Check out the 5-day forecast. **B10**



FRANK BELLINO/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Martin and Maria Gagliardi, of Green Acres, bask in a rare snowfall Friday. Amid the event, residents were warned to take preventive measures to protect against a deepening cold snap overnight tonight.



SOURCES: NAVTEQ, TERRAMETRICS, EUROPA TECHNOLOGIES, 3D TERRAIN FROM GOOGLE EARTH

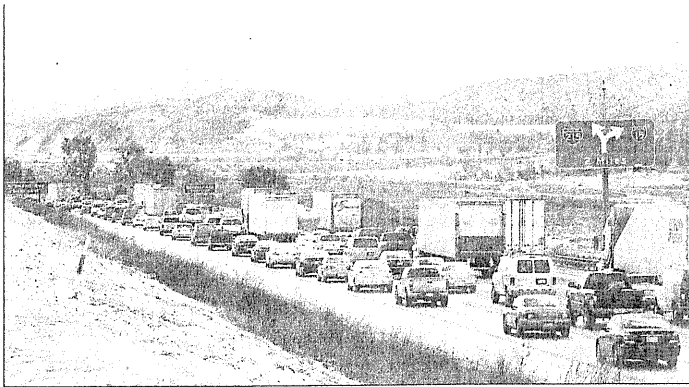
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PAUL ALVAREZ/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

The snowy weather leaves traffic backed up at the interchange of interstates 15 and 215 Friday morning. At least 11 accidents were reported in the mountains between 7 and 10 a.m.



WILLIAM WILSON LEWIS III/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Two-year-olds Autumn Hankins, left, and Rylan Rasmussen, both from Yucaipa, enjoy the remnants of a snowman in Oak Glen.

COLD SNAP: Winter blast has many in Inland region taking rarely used steps to keep warm

CONTINUED FROM A1
danger.

The cold snap has left some Inland homeless shelters scrambling to find extra accommodations.

Farmers, meanwhile, worry what the cold weather will mean to their crops.

"If we get a really, really hard frost — we're talking mid-20s — it's likely that some of the young tender seedlings will die," said John Gardner, assistant agricultural commissioner with San Bernardino County.

Gov. Schwarzenegger on Friday declared a state of emergency. He instructed state officials and the National Guard to help the public stay warm by opening warming centers. He also instructed state officials to work with local authorities to monitor crops and livestock.

While farmers cringed, ski slope operators reveled. Friday's storm dumped 3 to 6 inches in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Roger Vieau, a marketing supervisor at the Snow Valley Mountain Resort, said the winds were cold but the snow was powdery.

Highway 330 was closed due to the weather, but motorists with chains can take Highway 18 into the mountains, he said.

"With the roads open, it seems like we will get a lot of people," he said.

Flurries were also reported at lower elevations Friday, including Lake Elsinore, Banning and San Bernardino, sending children and adults scurrying outdoors.

Traci Frilot, 19, of Moreno Valley, scooped up the snow and made an 8-inch snowman. She gave it a mouth, eyes and buttons made from peppercorns and put a tiny, red knit cap on its head. She'd never seen snow before, her mother said.

Frilot's mother, Lori Frilot, called her eldest daughter, Adrienne Frilot, 27, who lives in New York City to tease her about the "backwards" weather.

"Yesterday it was in the 70s in New York," Lori Frilot said. "I called her today to tell her that we were having a blizzard."

PRECAUTIONS

The cold weather may bring fun, but it also brings risks.

Motorists were urged to drive with care. Skiers headed to mountain resorts may face slick roads and freezing winds.

"You've got a half inch of ice with 8 inches of snow over it," said CHP Officer Don Walker, "so it's a real slick situation."

At least 11 accidents were reported in the mountains between 7 and 10 a.m. Friday, closing stretches of highways 18 and 330.

Six cars piled up coming down Highway 18. No major injuries were reported, and Walker said most of the other accidents were similar, typically caused by someone not being able to stop in time.

A San Bernardino County sheriff's search-and-rescue unit lost control heading down Highway 18 and rear-ended a semi. The collision left the vehicle on its side, according to CHP dispatch reports. No one was injured.

Animal experts, meanwhile, urged residents to keep their pets indoors over the next few days.

All dogs, regardless of the length of their coat, should be kept indoors overnight, said Melissa Phillips, canine supervisor with the Riverside

Humane Society.

Though there didn't appear to be any major incidents reported Friday, plumbing experts advised homeowners to consider steps to prevent pipes from freezing or bursting.

Jesse Lohnes, a spokesman for Roto-Rooter Plumbing & Drain Service, recommended that residents:

- Disconnect outdoor hoses.
- Allow a trickle of hot and cold water to drip overnight in sinks and bathtubs.
- Insulate pipes in unheated areas.

SHELTERS

At one Inland shelter Friday, the problem wasn't frozen pipes, but broken heaters.

Kimberly Hooper, program director at the Inland Temporary Homes in Loma Linda, appealed for the public's help to raise money to repair their facility's heating system, which has been down for a week.

The facility is at capacity, housing five families, including eight children and three babies.

"They're bundling up. Their spirits are good," she said.

The families are staying

warm with the use of electric oil-burning heaters, she said.

The facility needs to raise \$8,000 to \$9,000 to repair the heating system.

Meanwhile, the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County on Friday began providing extra sleeping bags and blankets to shelters to accommodate the anticipated overflow of clients.

The nonprofit group also made arrangements with local motels to provide temporary shelter to families without shelter.

At the Circle of Hope Family Shelter in Corona, which also was at capacity with 50 people, officials were giving people the option of staying at the shelter during the day because of the cold, as long as they helped with some of the cleaning chores.

Normally, the shelter only accommodates people until 8 a.m., said Wanda Carter, shelter director.

CROPS

The cold weather has stung farmers too.

Jeff Percy, vice president of production for Ocean Mist's Coachella Valley crops, said

the bitter temperatures have resulted in low yields and blistered produce. Percy is holding off on transplanting produce into the ground until the cold weather passes.

"This is not good news," Percy said.

John Gless, owner of Gless Ranch citrus orchards in Riverside, said extra irrigation and wind machines aimed at the orange trees could bring the temperature up by 3 to 4 degrees and "come pretty close to saving the crop."

Tom Carmady, chief executive officer of Perricone Juices in Beaumont, said his workers have been working around the clock to get fruit off trees.

The cold is a severe economic hit to a citrus industry that weathered ruined crops in Florida last year because of hurricanes. Carmady said citrus crop damage in California will surely send prices on both the fruit and its juice higher.

"If we have a short crop, we can only imagine what will happen," he said.

Staff writers David Olson, Melissa Eiselein, Steve Fetbrandt, David Racin and Patrick O'Neil contributed to this story.

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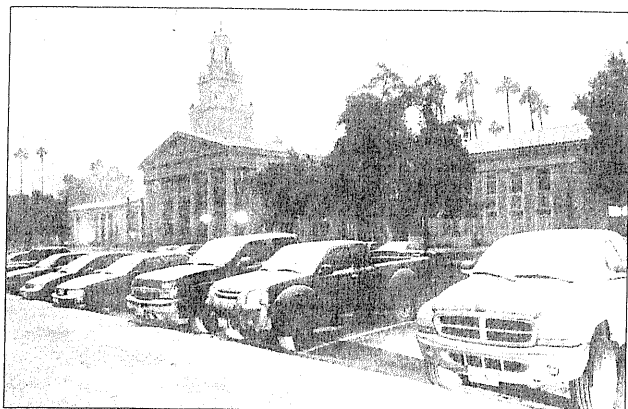
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WILLIAM WILSON LEWIS III/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Vehicles parked at the University of Redlands are dusted with snow. The forecast high for today in Redlands is 56 degrees, with an overnight low of 30.



GAILLIN M. KELLY/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Members of the UCR track and cross country teams don't let the weather get in the way of training.



PAUL ALVAREZ/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Playing in the snow are, from left, Christian Kelliher, 7, Jonah Kelliher, 10, and Brian Ballesteros, 10, play in the snow at their homes on Lemonwood Avenue in Rialto.